

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 005188
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:PWLANDE:EI
APPROVED BY NEA/INS:PWLANDE
NEA/RA - COL.GROSS
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
NEA ONLY

-----100712 092110Z /61

R 092055Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 005188

STADIS/////////
FOR AMBASSADORS HECK AND GOHEEN FROM LANDE, NEA/INS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IN

SUBJECT: EAST-WEST HIGHWAY PROJECT

REF: NEW DELHI 306

1. WE ASSUME YOU HAVE BOTH SEEN REFERENCED TELEGRAM WHICH REQUESTS AN ADDITIONAL DOLLARS 670,000 TO CONTINUE SPARE PARTS SUPPORT FOR EAST-WEST HIGHWAY PROJECT IN NEPAL. TELEGRAM STATES THAT TERMINATION OF OUR SUPPORT FOR PROJECT IN AUGUST 78 WOULD NOT BE IN BEST INTEREST OF U.S.

2. I AM NOT SURE IF YOU WERE CONSULTED PRIOR TO THE SENDING OF THE MESSAGE AND WONDER, ON THE BASIS OF MY CONVERSATIONS IN BOTH EMBASSIES, WHETHER THE PROPOSAL MAKES SENSE. IT
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PAGE 02 STATE 005188

SEEMS TO ME THAT THE EAST-WEST HIGHWAY IS A HANGOVER FROM AN EARLIER ERA AND, WHILE NOT BAD PER SE, OUR INVOLVEMENT COULD BE PERMITTED TO LAPSE WHEN FUNDS RUN OUT. OR DO WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO FUND AN INDIAN PROJECT IN NEPAL ON A VIRTUALLY PERPETUAL BASIS? THE INDIANS ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT WHETHER OR NOT WE SUPPLY ADDITIONAL FUNDS AND OUR EQUIPMENT CAN REMAIN THERE SO LONG AS IT IS NEEDED.

3. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD AGREE ON A LINE TO BE
TAKEN. IF YOU CONCUR WITH NEW DELHI'S 306, JUST LET ME

KNOW. IF NOT, YOU SHOULD SEND IN A GENERAL DISTRIBUTION
MESSAGE SETTING OUT THE REASONS AGAINST FURTHER FUNDING.

4. FYI: AS MISSIONS ARE AWARE, WORLDWIDE MAP FUNDING IS A
DIMINISHING RESOURCE AND IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO SECURE
ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM CONGRESS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HIGHWAYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE005188
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PWLANDE:EI
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780013-0804
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780184/aaaactfi.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5eb96de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 306
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3806003
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EAST-WEST HIGHWAY PROJECT
TAGS: MASS, IN
To: KATHMANDU NEW DELHI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5eb96de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014